California GARDEN

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HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Through Sep. 7 **JULIAN WEED SHOW**
Town Hall, Main & Washington, Julian. Daily 9-5 p.m. Free. Call 765-1857 Fri.-Tues. 11-4 p.m.

Sep. 1 **QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Free Children's Tour
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. For ages 3 to 6. Meet at Visitor's Center. 10:30 a.m. garden admission free. $1 parking. Call 436-3036 Tues.-Fri. 10-1 p.m.

Sep. 3 **THE HUNTINGTON** First Thursday Garden Walk, Talk & Sale
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Lecture on Mediterranean natives, South African bulbs. Plant sale. 2:30 p.m. $5.00 donation suggested. Information 818/405-2141.

Sep. 7 **CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR** 139th Floriculture Exhibit & Competition
1600 Exposition Boulevard, Sacramento. Daily 10-10 p.m. Admission/parking fee. 916/924-2282.

Sep. 8 **GROSSMONT ADULT SCHOOL** Flower Gardens, Year Round Color
Tues. evenings, Grossmont High School, 1100 Murray Dr. La Mesa, Rm 51, 6:30-9:30 p.m. 12 wks. Instructor: Betty Newton. Fee $23. Call: 579-4795.

Sep. 9 or Sep. 10 **GROSSMONT ADULT SCHOOL** Landscaping Classes
Foothills Adult Education Center, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon, Rm 12, Wed. evenings 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thurs. mornings - 9-12 noon. 12 weeks. Instructor: Betty Newton. Fee $23. Call: 579-4795.

Sep. 10-13 **AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY** 1992 Convention: "Ivies for Every Garden"
Write American Ivy Society, P. O. Box 520, West Carrollton, Ohio 45449-0520.

Sep. 11-13 **SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN** Three-day Camping Trip to Santa Catalina Island
1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara. Explore island's native plant life. Call 805/682-4726.

Sep. 19 **AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY** Show & Sale
Ecke Building, Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Experts will advise on bamboo types, care & use in landscaping. 12-4 p.m. Admission free. $1 parking. Call 453-0334.

Sep. 19 **♣SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION♣** Bus Trip to Lake Arrowhead
Tour leisure homes of the rich and famous, lake cruise. Call 232-5762.

Sep. 19-20 **HEARTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** 3rd Fall Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. 1-5 p.m. Sun. 10-4:30 p.m.

Sep. 22 **♣SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION♣** Flower Arranging Class
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Velma West, instructor. 9:30-3 p.m. $25 members, $30 nonmembers for series (Sep. 22, 29 & Oct. 6). Classes limited. Registration/information: 232-5762 or 298-5182.

Sep. 26 **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS** Tour "Garden Rhythms"
Self-guided tour of six private gardens. 9-4:30 p.m. $12 ($10 before Aug. 15) check & SASE to Garden Tour '92, P.O. Box 33510, San Diego 92163-3510. Call 583-4166.

Sep. 26-27 **SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.** Fall Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 10-5 p.m. Free.

Oct. 2-4 **SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN** Santa Cruz Island Getaway: Christy Ranch
1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara. Join Steve Junak, Botanic Garden Herbarium Curator, for an introduction to the island's plants. Call 805/682-4726.

Oct. 3-4 **SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA** Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 11-4:30 p.m. Free.

Oct. 13 **♣SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION♣** Advanced Flower Arranging
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Class limited. Registration/information 232-5762 or 298-5182.

Oct. 17 **QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Lecture "Palms in the Landscape"
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Lecturer: Dr. Henry Donselman, Rancho Soledad Nurseries. Ecke Bldg. Bring leaves and/or photos showing problems. 11 a.m. Free. $1 parking. Call 436-3036.

Oct. 17-18 **SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN** Fall Plant Sale
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. Plants from Propagation Workshop. 9-3 p.m. $3 admission. Call 213/544-1948.

(Continued on page 150)

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Cover art: *"South African Bulbs" by Celia Hanson (482-2346). Background: Moraea aristata-Butterfly Iris Left to right: Amaryllis belladonna-Naked Lady, Ixia-Corn Lily, Geissorhiza, Tulbaghia-Society Garlic, Gladiolus.*

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IT'S TIME TO BUY BULBS

Lucy Warren

FROM NOW THROUGH spring, local and mail order nurseries will be selling bulbs. Nearly every trip to a nursery will yield new types and varieties. We are speaking of bulbs in the broadest terms, including true bulbs, rhizomes, tubers, tuberous roots and corms. Those of us originally from more northern climes know that it takes some effort to produce familiar spring flowers such as crocus and tulips. They arrive at the nurseries during the winter. Unless we live in the local mountains refrigeration is necessary. Our coastal and inland climates do not accommodate the chilling period necessary to trigger blooms. So we pop them into the crisper section of our refrigerators for up to six weeks before planting and hope our spouse doesn't mistake them for small onions. Each year requires digging them up and rechilling to coax further flowers which may or may not arrive. A few years per bulb is about the local limit, although some varieties prove exceptions.

But is there a way to eliminate all of this frustration, not to mention expense? Absolutely. Although different in form and fragrance, there are literally hundreds of varieties of bulbs which thrive in our climate with little fuss. These marvelous bulbs hail from similar climates around the Mediterranean, South Africa and Mexico. They conveniently go dormant during our summer drought and take advantage of early winter rains to grow for late winter and early spring blossoming. They are perfect for our gardens though difficult for gardens in other parts of the country. Our opportunity therefore has not been diminished, but expanded by our climate.

If you have developed a native xeriscape, you might try some local California natives such as *Calochortus*. Be careful though, they are serious about their dry summer dormancy and may rot if subject to landscape watering.

We have concentrated on South African bulbs in this issue because of their diversity. Many are more familiar than their exotic origin may indicate. I first saw the South African freesias naturalized along the Riviera in France and thought they must be a flower from paradise with their lovely colors and delightful fragrance. My second experience was in a disheveled garden in Pacific Beach. An old Scripps home, now torn down, had seen little garden care for many years. Yet, the freesias expanded their space, each year filling in among more stepping stones. The white ones seem to have the most fragrance, but try a variety for their striking colors.

I am always reminded of Georgia O'Keefe when I contemplate the calla lily (*Zantedeshia aethiopica*), another South African favorite. Regal watsonias bring visions of Victorian homes, while the Scarborough lily (*Vallota speciosa*) typifies English parlors and glasshouses. *Agapanthus* called Lily of the Nile, *Clivia* and *Tulbaghia* known as Society Garlic are familiar South African natives, as are the various *Gladiolus*.

But fall bulb planting does not limit us to only one continent. The Mediterranean region gives us *Cyclamen* and *Muscari* (Grape Hyacinths). Many European *Narcissus* varieties do well. From our own hemisphere come *Crinium*, and *Ipheion* or Star Flower. All are good performers in Southern California.

Local nurseries stock many bulbs and are familiar with those which thrive under local conditions. If you desire different varieties, consider mail order sources, but do your homework with *Sunset Western Garden Book* or a basic primer on bulbs, like HP Books *Bulbs, How to Select, Grow and Enjoy* by George Harmon Scott. They will help you to determine appropriate choices, as well as provide good information on planting and maintenance.

Take care as you select the bulbs to buy, the early shopper has greater selection. The bulbs arrive at different times so you may need to make several trips and visit several nurseries. Generally, the larger the bulb, the better its bloom performance. Avoid soft, mushy bulbs which are likely to be damaged from disease or insects. The thin outer covering or *tunic* is important to keep the bulb moist and healthy. If it is missing the bulb may be dehydrated and will probably not bloom. A light weight bulb has also probably dried out. Check for any evidence of insects.

Be especially careful when bulbs go on sale — these end of the season *bargains* usually signal the tail end of the planting season and have probably been picked over many times before you arrived. Planting late or out of season may delay or minimize flower production. Although moisture and soil requirements vary by species and variety, most bulbs appreciate well drained soil.

* * *

SOUTH AFRICAN BULBS - MY FAVORITES

Jim Duggan

MY GARDENING life has always centered around flowers. Shades of green are certainly wonderful, but I need the excitement brought on by the opening of a new flower. The endless variety of shapes, sizes and colors always fascinates me. With this in mind, it is little wonder that I have been so taken by the extraordinary floral output of South Africa. My interest in these plants was triggered, in part, by an article on the subject by Karen Kees in the March-April, 1985 issue of *California Garden*.

South Africa has an astonishing variety of 'bulbous' plants. These include the true bulbs (*Lachenalias*), corms (*Babianas*), and tuberous rootstocks (*Bulbinellas*). They range in size (height) from the 3-4" *Babiana pygmaea* with large 3" wide cream-colored flowers to the robust 36-42" height of *Chasmanthe floribunda duckittii* with lemon-yellow flowers. The range of available colors seems endless. The following are some of my favorites.

Babiana rubrocyanea Jim Duggan

First are the *Babianas* or 'Baboon flowers', a favorite food for baboons. A dwarf species comes immediately to mind. *Babiana nana var. augustifolia* produces pale blue-violet flowers which smother the top of 5" plants. A stunningly spicy cinnamon fragrance perfumes my entire growing area. One of the loveliest members of the genus is *B. rubrocyanea*, the 'Wine Cup Babiana'. At 10" it carries blooms blue-violet with a striking red center.

Geissorhiza tulbagensis Jim Duggan

Our next genus has a plant with similar coloring. *Geissorhiza radians*, 'Wine Cup' sports blue-violet flowers with red centers outlined with white and a single black dot. A stunning display held high above the six-foot foliage. Another favorite is *G. tulbaghensis*. This large white flowered species has a grey center and purple marks. Lastly is *G. inflexa erosa* with flowers of velvety red on 6-9" plants.

A familiar genus follows with *Gladiolus natalensis*. This two-foot summer grower produces sparkling orange flowers marked with deeper orange and a yellow throat. This species was used much in the creation of modern garden gladiolus hybrids. A rare hysteranthos, i.e. flowering before the leaf develops fully, must be mentioned next. *G. stephaniae* at 6-8" produces extra large 3½" red flowers marked with white.

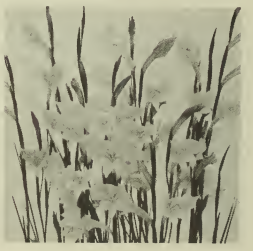
The genus *Hesperantha* or 'Evening Flowers', blooms late in the day, staying closed on cloudy days. Some are truly beautiful, but the real show stopper is *H. vaginata*. At 8" this species has large golden-yellow flowers strongly marked with black blotches.

Hesperantha vaginata Jim Duggan

Homeria aurantiaca Jim Duggan

Next, the 'Cape Tulips' or *Homerias*; about 40 subspecies range in color from yellow to violet. *H. elegans* grows from 12-14". The species epithet certainly fits here. "The large, stunning flowers are either brilliant yellow or yellow and salmon-orange marked with large green blotches."

A genus allied closely to *Gladiolus* brings one of the earliest winter bloomers. *Homoglossum priori*, the 'Red Afrikaner' has cheery red flowers with yellowish throats which bloom on 30" stems near Christmas-time. Another fine species is *H. watsonium*. A lovely pastel-orange with a hint of yellow on flowers opened wide like a Watsonia.



Homoglossom priori Jim Duggan

Ixia veridiflora Jim Duggan

Another familiar genus is *Ixia* or 'Corn Lily'. It has been bred to a variety of colors. I like the brilliant yellow-orange flowers with black centers of the *I. maculata*. Another fine specimen is *I. conferta*; 5-9" stems support white flowers with tan centers. One of the most sought after flowers of South Africa is *I. viridiflora*, the 'Green Ixia'. This

unusual variety has blossoms of light turquoise-green marked with purple black centers.

Lachenalia aff. unicolor Jim Duggan

Lachenalias, the 'Cape Cowslips' are a very unusual genus. Flowers are in spikes or racemes and tubular; resembling hyacinths. A vigorous species is *L. bulbiferum*. Flowers are 6-8", pink-red to red and may be spotted. A rainbow of color is exhibited by *L. mutablis*. The spike is yellow with blue in the center and purple at the tip.

The 'Fortnight lily' now classified as *Dietes*, was once classified in the genus *Moraea* but it is a rhizone and not a corm. Flowers familiar in shape greet us with the genus *Moraea*, known as the 'Butterfly Iris'. Some of the best species of this large genus have flowers marked with 'Peacock Eyes'. *M. aristata* has lovely white flowers marked with blue peacock eyes, edged with purple and black. Although rare in the wild — nearing extinction — its beauty ensures survival in gardens worldwide. Another in this group is *M. neopavonia*, blooming orange with navy-blue to black spotted 'eyes'.

Moraea aristata Jim Duggan

Romulea gandscapa Jim Duggan

Our next genus is *Romulea*. Two good examples are *R. grandiscapa*, a lovely blue-violet flower with yellow center and the stunning, large two-inch blooms of *R. hirsuta var. hirsuta*. The coloring is red-coral with yellow centers and dark red marks. Both are floriferus eight-inch plants.

The 'Wand Flowers' of the genus *Sparaxis* offer more exciting color combinations. *S. elegans* has light orange flowers that are intricately marked with purple centers ringed by black rectangles with yellow centers. These are complemented by the dwarf species *S. grandiflora* with purple and cream molted blooms. And I must mention the taller, brilliant yellow flowers of *S. grandiflora acutiloba*.

Sparaxis elegans Jim Duggan

Tritonia hyalina Jim Duggan

Next is a truly floriferus and lovely genus, the *Tritonias*. I grow a selection of *T. crocata*. At 12" the flowers are a lovely pastel coral-orange with the flowers held high above the foliage. There are many hybrids on the market. T. 'Pink Peach' is light pink blotched with deeper pink. T. 'Princess Beatrix' sports large brilliant orange blooms. And T. 'White Glory' is white suffused with pink. Lastly, we have the superb *T. deusta ssp. deusta*. These flowers are bright orange flowers with three red marks and yellow at the base of the petals.

Our last genus is again more familiar; the *Watsonias* or 'Bugle Lilys'. A dwarf species, 6-12" is *W. humilis* with lovely pink blooms. A little taller is *W. stenosiphon* with orange flowers marked with red lines and red spots on the leaf.

Watsonia borbonica Jim Duggan

For the gardener who loves flowers, the South African Bulbs are a necessity. Their culture is easy if two important conditions are met: very good drainage and no summer water. Try some soon, but be careful, it could become a habit.

* * *

JIM DUGGAN is specializes in South African bulbs and unusual plants at his nursery, Jim Duggan Flower Nursery, in Leucadia.

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THREE LITTLE KNOWN SOUTH AFRICAN BULBS

Betty Newton

THREE SMALL spring-flowering bulbs may be new to you. I love two of the three and am pleased to have the third. Together they offer different colors to work with in our flower gardens. *Tritonia, homeria* and *lapeirousia* have long been known by specialists apparently, but are being freshly discovered by home gardeners.

Two of the three small bulbs, *tritonia* and *homeria*, are known widely enough now so that they are at many nurseries this fall. It is worthwhile to know their value and get them while you can. Once in the ground, all three plants multiply at a gentle, respectable rate. They can be planted as early as August and through November.

Tritonia and *homeria* are graceful in the garden, the other, *lapeirousia*, is sprightly. Back east authors call them "summer blooming," say to "plant in spring" and urge you to dig them up in the fall to protect them from cold. Here they bloom in spring (March into May) and the weather is so mild (in most places), that we can leave them in the ground — forever.

HOMERIA

Homeria Breyniana and *Homeria ochroleuca* give us, respectively. muted light orange or buff yellow, 2½ inch wide flowers on wiry 2 - 2½ foot stems. The petals start in a funnel, then lay back for a wider flower. Each bulb has only three or four narrow, twisting leaves. *Homeria* blooms for about six weeks and makes a good cut flower because one opens after the other on the stem. Some write that the name honors the poet Homer; others, that it refers to the clasped nature of the base of the petals. Partial shade is desirable in the hottest areas.

TRITONIA

This genus used to be called *monbretia*. A dark red-orange form of *Tritonia crocata* has been available for several years, but now you can grow the lovely milky coral one. Books talk of salmon, peach, pink and creamy yellow varieties. Surely Southern Californians would be eager consumers. *Tritonia*'s stems of two-inch wide, cupped flowers grow sideways, arching slightly toward the ground. They look graceful and floriferous.

LAPEIROUSIA

Named for a French botanist, *Lapeirousia laxa* has very bright, one-inch deep coral flowers with dark red dots at the base of three of its six petals. It grows 4-16 inches tall depending on how much water it gets. In spite of the species name, it is reasonably upright. There is a seldom seen white form, 'Alba'. *Lapeirousia*'s tuft of grassy basal leaves are yellow-green, about ⅛ inch wide. This old-fashioned flower reseeds rather freely and can become a nuisance. It has naturalized on the Riviera, according to Patrick Synge. *Lapeirousia* does not seem readily available in the trade. If you send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Betty Newton, Foothills Adult Education Center, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon, CA 92019, I will try to send you a tiny pinch of seeds after they die back this year.

Lapeirousia, tritonia and *homeria* all develop corms (not true bulbs with scales), come from South Africa and are in the iris family.

Their growing conditions are similar. They need a place with rapid drainage, preferring a soil that does not hold moisture too long. Cover the corms with soil one to three inches deep and plant two to ten inches apart. Feed, if at all, with *great restraint*.

These bulbs can live quite dry over summer, but will survive in the ordinary watered garden. As foliage dies after flowering (unevenly with green among straw-colored leaves), it should be removed. If you need to protect these bulbs from your shovel, plant them in pots and bury the pots.

* * *

BETTY NEWTON is a garden writer and teaches adult education landscaping and flower classes in El Cajon and La Mesa.
BARBARA LINDSLEY, graphic artist, provided the illustrations.

California Garden is a gift which keeps arriving all year long.

CYCADS - AN ANCIENT SPECIES

Diana Goforth

CYCADS **ARE AMONG** the most primitive of living seed bearing plants. In early Mesozoic times, when there was a tropical atmosphere from pole to pole, cycads' range was extensive. Recent studies show that cycads, along with ferns, were a source of food for some dinosaurs. But most of the cycads were wiped out by the Ice Age. Today, cycads are confined to the tropic, subtropic and warm, temperate regions of the world.

The recent designation of phytogeographical zones (areas including plants with similar climate requirements and geographical backgrounds) at Quail Botanical Gardens has made it possible to plant out many specimens from the nursery, most notably the cycads. Six of the ten existing cycad genera are represented at Quail, including several specimens of *Encephalartos* now on display in the garden's South African zone, north of the Visitor's Center. The other five include: Dion, Ceratozamia, Cycas, Macrozamia and Zamia.

Encephalartos villosus with cone

Barbara Weiler

Although most people think of cycads as palms, they are more closely related to conifers. In the grand scheme of botanical classification, both cycads and conifers belong to the *gymnosperms*, one of two main divisions of the seed plants. All gymnosperms lack flowers and reproduce by seeds borne naked on a special bract or sporophyll, most often a cone. *Angiosperms*, on the other hand (of which true palms are members), have flowers and their seeds are enclosed in an ovary. It is thought by some botanists that angiosperms outnumber gymnosperms because the flower is a more efficient method of reproduction.

A common question among Quail visitors is how to propagate these beautiful ornamental plants that grow so easily in our Southern California landscape. One method, is by seed. Cycads are dioecious, that is, female or male reproductive structures are borne on separate plants. Nature produces viable seed only when plants of both sexes are growing close together and forming cones that mature sexually at the same time. These cones are then pollinated by insects, mostly beetles.

Under cultivation, one can remove the male cone once it is mature and, after a week, collect the pollen, place in a paper envelope and refrigerate. When the female cone is receptive, hand pollinate. Eight to nine months after fertilization, the cones of the female plants will mature, releasing ripe seeds as the cone disintegrates. The seeds must then be stored for four to six months to allow further development of the embryo. After that period, the seeds may be sown by pressing them into sand and pumice half way and watering once a day. Once they sprout and have a one-inch root, they may be potted up in loose, well-drained soil. The entire process, from pollination to seedling, may take from two to two and one-half years.

Another, more preferred, method of propagation is by pups, also known as suckers or offsets. The best time to remove the pups is in March or April so root action can take place. Carefully remove the soil around the pup to see where it is attached to the parent. Cut off the pup (a chisel and rubber mallet works well) and apply fungicide to both cuts. Place pup in a container in a propagating medium that is damp but not wet, such as agricultural pumice or sponge rock. Vermiculite holds too much water and will cause the pups to rot. The pup will take about a year to root. Then it should be potted up in a soil mix with good drainage. Cycads will rot in heavy soil.

Cycads are sometimes bothered by mealybugs and scale, as well as aphids which attack the young leaves. If insecticide is used to control these pests, beware that liquid insecticide has an emulsifiable oil which can burn the leaves if dried by the sun. To avoid this problem spray in the late afternoon. Powder based insecticide does not have any oil but will leave a residue on the leaves. The residue is not harmful to the plant but detracts from its appearance. Controlling ants will help reduce all of the above pests.

The Quail Cycads may be seen during Garden hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, or on the Saturday morning (10 a.m.) guided tours of the Garden given weekly. Admission is free, parking $1.

* * *

Many thanks to Loran Whitelock of Cycad Garden in Los Angeles for his valuable information on cycads.

DIANA GOFORTH has recently been promoted to Operations Manager at Quail Botanical Gardens.

EXOTIC PROTEAS IN OUR GARDEN

Jean Nicodym

Protea eximia - Rose Spoon Jean Nicodym

YOU MAY OR may not like **proteas** but you cannot be indifferent to them. These South African plants are unique in the plant world. We have grown them in our Point Loma garden for 21 years, sometimes successfully and sometimes not. We first became acquainted with them after reading an article in the *Sunset* magazine in 1971. The article was very interesting to us as we were looking for something new for our garden. The article referred to nurseries in San Diego County where proteas could be obtained. We drove out to Green Valley Nurseries, north of Escondido, and met Howard Asper, Sr. for the first time. This fine gentleman chose four proteas for our garden — *Protea neriifolia* (Pink Mink), *Protea repens* (Sugarbush), *Banksia speciosa*, and *Protea magnifica* (Queen). We were fortunate that all four lived, in fact we have had the *Protea repens* for 21 years. It is a heavy bloomer and normally is covered with bees and ants during its blooming season. The *Protea repens* or Sugarbush covered large areas of South Africa and the early Dutch settlers used the nectar as a form of sweetening and for medicinal purposes. The flowers were simply tossed away. The *repens* was used during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Kirstenbosch as the emblem of "South Africa's Floral Year" in 1963. In 1976 the government decided that *Protea cynariodes*, the King protea, would be known as the official floral emblem of the Republic of South Africa.

A few months after we obtained our first proteas, and they were growing successfully, we were able to purchase a book from South Africa, *Proteas for Pleasure* by Sima Eliovson. The book has many large colorful pictures and we decided we would like one of each variety (which is not possible in our garden lot). Anyway, we made many more trips to Green Valley Nurseries and to Hawaii purchasing plants. Since we had very limited growing information, we had to do some experimenting in our area. We purchased at one time a very small plant in a four inch pot — *Banksia integrifolia*, a native of Australia. The plant was growing rapidly, almost too fast, and we were finally able to obtain a book on Banksias of Australia. We discovered to our horror that we had a plant that could become a 50 foot tree now planted just a few feet from our front door. It has been with us now for over 14 years and isn't allowed to grow any taller than six feet. It blooms and is happy. Quail Botanical Gardens has a very tall specimen of this variety.

We are able to maintain 80 proteas in our yard, which is on a coastal cul-de-sac with plenty of breeze and very good drainage. **Yes**, we do lose them at times, but many are happy. A few of the other varieties we are successful in growing are: *Protea longifloria* in shades of pink and green; many varieties of "pincushions" *Leucospermum cordifolium, Leucospermum reflexum,* and among them the beautiful *Leucospermum* hybrid 'Veldfire'. Many of the proteas make beautiful dried arrangements. The pincushion varieties do not dry.

The blossom of the beautiful *Protea cynaroides* (The King) can top 12 inches in diameter and commands high prices from florists. Our Kings have only extended to eight inches, which is still impressive.

Protea Neriifolia - Pink Mink Jean Nicodym

Yes, you too can grow these magnificent flowers. They need air movement and do not flourish next to a house or fence. They enjoy all day sun but do well in our garden with only half day sun. They do not grow well along with other garden flowers due to excessive water and fertilizer. When we first purchased our proteas in the 1970's the literature advised that they should be watered about once a week. We had small plants that simply dried up from lack of water. We do water and the well established plants in the garden are watered about every six days in the summer months. We do have some pots which are watered every two to three days.

Back to some history: These gorgeous plants were and are weeds in South Africa and Australia. King George III of England grew them in his hothouses and later Empress Josephine grew them in France.

Howard Asper, Sr. helped to establish a beautiful Protea section at Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas in the 1960's where they flourished for many years. Several of the original collection can still be seen in the Quail Gardens. This year Zorro Protea Farms donated plants to Quail and a large number of the proteas were planted next to the parking lot on the South Side where the pincushions bloomed happily this spring.

Several varieties of proteas, including the *Protea neriifolia* (Pink, White or Yellow Minks) and pincushions *Leucospermum cordifolium* and hybrids have been available this year at many nurseries: Evergreen, Simpsons, Walter Andersen's Nursery and others. They are also available in the flower nursery at the Wild Animal Park.

The California Protea Growers Association recommends a soil mixture of fir bark, redwood shavings, and leaf mould. We also use some sand. Do not be kind and over fertilize. A light application of sulfate of ammonia during the rainy season is helpful. If you are ordering flowers for relatives in the Midwest and other areas, do include some proteas as they are very long lasting and many varieties dry very well.

In case you think that you haven't been exposed to the Proteaceae family, please keep this in mind the next time you eat a Macadamia nut - you are eating one of its more famous members.

* * *

JEAN NICODYM is a docent and trustee at Quail Botanical Garden Foundation and a docent at the Natural History Museum.

TREES OF BALBOA PARK IN BLOOM

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Kathy Puplava

THIS IS THE third in a series of six articles on landscaping trees in Balboa Park. Magazine readers will be able to see mature examples of the trees, blossoms and even fruit for possible inclusion in their own landscapes, or just to enjoy beautiful trees. Some are rare, many are familiar, they represent the wide diversity of botanical options available in San Diego. Most are identified in *Sunset Western Garden Book*, or take the free Offshoot Tour Tree Walk held on the third Saturday of each month. (See Horticultural Calendar page 150.)

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
*Alectryon excelsus**	Alectryon
*Arbutus Unedo**	Strawberry Tree
Bauhinia punctata	Red Bauhinia
Callistemon citrinus	Lemon Bottlebrush
Callistemon viminalis	Weeping Bottlebrush
Chorisia speciosa	Floss Silk Tree
Erythrina crista-galli	Cockspur Coral Tree
Erythrina Humeana	Natal Coral Tree
Eucalyptus ficifolia	Red-Flowering Gum
*Kigelia pinnata**	Sausage Tree
*Koelreuteria bipinnata**	Chinese Flame Tree
Magnolia grandiflora	Southern Magnolia
Markhamia Hildebrandtii	Markhamia
Parkinsonia aculeata	Jerusalem Thorn, Mexican Palo Verde
Peltophorum dubium	No common name (NCN)
Spathodea campanulata	African Tulip Tree
Stenocarpus sinuatus	Firewheel Tree
Thevetia peruviana	Yellow Oleander
Tristania conferta	Brisbane Box

*Trees which display attractive or interesting fruit.

* * *

REFERENCES: Botanical names — *Hortus Third*.
Common names — *Sunset Western Garden Book*.

KATHY PUPLAVA heads the horticulture department at Balboa Park.

NOTE: The *Catalpa bignonioides* listed in this series in the May-June issue is a *Catalpa speciosa* or Western Catalpa. We regret the error.

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DEAD LAWN TO WILDFLOWER GARDEN

Trish Wittkoski

THE DROUGHT LEFT me with a large, dry, brown lawn. It was dead! I needed to do something with the area, but what? I agonized over a solution for months, trying to come up with an answer. Finally I decided a temporary solution might be best. I would sow the area with wildflower seeds — a project I have always wanted to try!

First, with my husband, we scraped off the dead lawn with shovels. It took 72 hours to clear the 2700 square feet. It would have been faster to rototill, but the lawn was put down as sod, with plastic mesh embedded. It would have snarled the tiller. Once the old lawn was removed, we did rototill, added organic amendments and fertilizer, then raked the area smooth.

I decided we needed paths. The area had certainly been a lawn, but we also used it as a path. My sketch of the paths we needed looked like a wagon wheel with spokes in all directions: to the lath house, the orange trees, the rose garden, the flower garden and the side entrance. At first this design bothered me. It looked stiff and the lines did not flow. It went against everything I knew about design. But this was only temporary so we could just try it and see what happened. I marked the paths with short wood stakes and decided to put a terra cotta bird at the center where paths crossed. That made me feel a little better about the wagon wheel.

Now I was ready to sow. I ordered seed mixes from two mail order sources - pure seed without fillers. This is important when you are buying seed. A big container may look like a lot of seed, but read the package. It may contain vermiculite or other fillers. They are added to make the mix easier to spread, but you can add your own filler less expensively.

It is also important to choose mixes of seeds native to our region. I combined Park's mix for Western United States and Smith and Hawkens' mix for Southern California. Just for fun, I threw in all my unused flower seeds - marigolds, zinnias, cosmos, etc. In total I had five cups of seed. The old lawn area was now divided into five sections. I portioned the seeds into five, one-cup amounts and mixed each cup with a bucket of sand to make spreading easier.

I scattered the seeds, then rolled them with a hand roller rented from a local nursery. I spread a thin layer of organic mix over the entire area and rolled it again.

The weather forecast for the next day was rain. This time they were right. It rained and rained and rained. I was sure the seeds would wash away, but the area is flat, and within a few weeks a thick carpet of green appeared. The little wildflowers continued to grow. To my joy it continued to rain off and on. *I did not have to water until April.* Then, into summer I watered about once a week.

The display of flowers changes as different kinds come into bloom. In May, it was mostly blues and yellows with several shades of the pink clarkia, Farewell to Spring. Although I have the list of the plants in the mixes, some of them I can't identify, but we had lots of oohs and ahs from friends and relatives.

The paths that had seemed stiff softened as the flowers grew, I'm glad we put them in. I enjoy wandering through my wildflower patch, but the key word is *wild*. Fastidious gardeners must remember this is a meadow process, not a tidy cottage garden or formal space. The plants blossom, then seed and die. In August I was very tempted to cut the tall stems with their deadheads as I saw new plants and flowers growing beneath.

Did I want things to look good or did I want the natural process to fully unfold? If I harvested the upper growth, would my garden recreate itself next year? In theory, when the plants are finished blooming and the seeds fully mature, you mow the whole thing down. Since this flower patch grows to three and four feet high, mowing might be difficult - a weed whacker could do the job more efficiently. I think I will continue this experiment, but maybe in another place next year.

Growing wildflowers was a lot more interesting than the lawn ever was. Each week brought new surprises as different varieties came into bloom - and all with less water than the original lawn. Butterflies frolicked in the spring and the birds arrived in variety and numbers for the seed. So far it has been maintenance free except for watering. It bloomed for over five months. In mid-summer I could still see tiny plants coming up with tight buds and others just starting to show color.

October is the best month for planting wildflower seeds in Southern California but you can plant through February. The ideal situation is to prepare the area early and have your seed ready. If rain is predicted, you can plant the day before it rains.

* * *

SEED SOURCES:

Park Seed Company catalog from Greenwood SC 29647-0001.
Moon Mountain Wildflowers, PO Box 367, Morro Bay CA 93442.
Wildseed, Inc., PO Box 308, Eaglelake TX 77434, 1-800-848-0078.
Theodore Payne Foundation, 10359 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley CA 91352.

TRISH WITTKOSKI gardens Vista Grande Gardens in El Cajon.

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THE ULTIMATE HEUCHERA

Catherine L. Zinsky

Heucharia maxima Lucy Warren

HYBRIDIZATION IS very much a part of the gardening world, and the *Heuchera* genus has not been excluded. Wayside Gardens has developed a *Heuchera* hybrid called 'Chartreuse'; then, there are the Bressingham hybrids. Yet as far as I am concerned, the California native, *Heuchera maxima,* surpasses them all.

Heucheras are perennial herbs belonging to the *Saxifraga* family. *H. maxima* was once more commonly called Alum Root. The roots were used medicinally by the native tribes as an astringent and hemostatic (to stop bleeding). Today we enjoy its handsome contribution to the garden and, of course, its long flowering panicles.

The first specimen I saw of *H. maxima* was not in flower at the time, and because its leaves are so strikingly different from the more familiar 'Coral Bells' cultivar *(H. sanguinea),* I didn't recognize the plant as a *Heuchera.* The leaves of *H. maxima* are much larger (3-5 inches, lobed and heart-shaped). Like 'Coral Bells', however, the leaves are hairy (pubescent).

It's truly surprising that such a stunning specimen plant as *H. maxima* is not a hybrid, as it has so many of the attributes hybridizers look for: the foliage is lush; the plant is manageable; it's practically disease-free; and its flowers are plentiful on superbly long, sturdy stems. According to *Hortus*, *H. maxima* is native to the Channel Islands off the coast of California.

That it is a native might suggest that it's drought tolerant. Untrue. Like all *Heucheras, H. maxima* does best with plenty of moisture. It should also be grown in partial shade, especially inland.

When I want more plants (and this is certainly one you'll want to duplicate), I simply 'divide and conquer'. Propagation of this delightful herb by division is easy, and after three or four years of growth, almost mandatory. The clumps can get large, though never unmanageable. Height averages about eighteen inches.

The stately flower panicles themselves are outstanding: they quietly, yet emphatically make themselves noticeable. The stem is very sturdy, making it a favorable cutting flower. And *H. maxima* panicles can reach as long as thirty inches! Dangling daintily from the top third or so of this stem are literally hundreds of small, white, bell-shaped flowers tinted with pinks and greens. Each of these flowers contains five stamens, what I call the 'clappers'.

The vase life is terrific: I've had some last as long as two weeks. Just to assuage any skepticism, let me assure you that this plant is not a candidate for Ripley's *Believe It or Not*. On the negative side, it can be messy as those hundreds of little bells begin to drop and litter your elegant dining room table. Still, all totaled, this long panicle makes an elegant contribution to the cut flower enthusiast's collection.

Judy's Perennials in San Marcos has carried *H. maxima* in the past, as has Walter Andersen's in San Diego. I recommend calling first, as the supply may be limited.

* * *

CATHERINE L. ZINSKY is the staff garden columnist for the *East County Weekly*.

Quail Botanical Gardens
Annual Plant Sale

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Oct. 24, Sat.: 1 pm - 4 pm, General Public
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GARDENING CLASS OPPORTUNITIES

Pat Kastama

SEPTEMBER BRINGS back-to-school opportunities for adults as well as children. Garden and yard care work loads have eased with the end of summer. Fall is the perfect planting time for nearly everything in our Southern California gardens so what better time to take a class and find out what's new and improved or what's old fashioned and back in favor in gardening circles.

San Diego County Universities, Colleges, Adult Education Centers and Community Organizations offer a wide variety of classes and we've attempted to identify and list most of them for you. Nearly all of these classes allow you to visit the first meeting free of charge so you can determine if it fits your needs.

Four Community College Districts have associate degree/certificate programs with extensive classes offered in Ornamental Horticulture, Nursery and Landscape Technology, Floristry, Park and Golf Course Maintenance and Interiorscape Design and Maintenance. All classes are open also to adults who do not wish credit and who are not interested in full time enrollment. Fees are low, approximately $6 per unit plus a parking fee.

The Fall Semester began in August at the following schools and the Spring Semester begins in January. Please call the numbers listed for schedules of spring classes and registration information.

Cuyamaca College, 2950 Jamacha Road, El Cajon. 670-1980.

Mira Costa College, One Barnard Drive, Oceanside. 757-2121. In mid-October Alleen Gleason will be teaching an eight week course *Landscape Planning and Principles* geared for residential landscaping. Call 757-2121 ext. 480.

San Diego Mesa College, 7250 Mesa College Drive, San Diego. 627-2631. The San Diego-Kearny Mesa Continuing Education Department offers a full time (30 hours per week) noncredit vocational program in the horticulture field using the Mesa College facilities. There is no fee, call 627-2545.

Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista. 421-6700 ext. 5215.

San Diego State University College of Extended Studies is offering two garden related classes on the SDSU campus.

Herbs: The Useful Ornamentals taught by Bettie Furuta on Sat. Oct. 3 and 10, 9:30-12:30 p.m., Extended Studies Classroom. Fee $48 single/$75 couples, call 594-5152.

Do-It-Yourself Landscape Planning for the Homeowner taught by Shirley J. Larson on Wed. Sept. 30-Oct. 28, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Extended Studies Classroom. Fee $58, call 594-5152.

The **SDSU Continuing Education Center at Rancho Bernardo** is holding a five session landscape course this Fall.

Analyzing Your Landscape taught by Carol Close beginning Wed. Sept. 23, 6:30-9:30 p.m., CEC-RB classroom 204B, 16776 Bernardo Center Drive. Fee for CEC-RB members $22 and nonmembers $30. Two field trips are included. Call 487-0464.

The preceding class will also be taught under the auspices of the **Escondido Adult School** beginning Tues. Sept. 22, 6:30-9:30 p.m., at San Pasqual High School, 3750 Mary Lane, Escondido. Fee $27, call 739-7300.

The **University of California at San Diego Extension Program** is offering three classes during Fall Quarter.

Home Landscape Design taught by Jeffrey Law, landscape architect, beginning Mon. Sept. 21-Oct. 26, 7:00-9:30 p.m., UCSD Extension Complex, Room 53, 9600 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, includes one field trip. Fee $195, materials fee approximately $35 to prepare actual landscape plans. Call 534-3400.

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Garden Rhythms, taught by Jeffrey Law, is a two session class and tour of award winning residential gardens in San Diego. First meeting, Sat. Sept. 19, 9:00-1:00 p.m., UCSD Extension Complex, Room 140. Second meeting, Sat. Sept. 26, the Garden Rhythms tour. Fee $45 (includes tour ticket). Call 534-3400.

San Diego Theme Gardening taught by Paul Backus, owner and operator of Green Garden Nursery in Pacific Beach, beginning Thurs. Sept. 24-Oct. 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m., UCSD Main Campus, Gilman Drive and La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, in the Humanities and Social Science Building. Fee $75, call 534-3400.

High School Districts in San Diego County offer many opportunities for adults to increase their knowledge and enrich their lives. **Grossmont Adult School** offers the following classes.

Flower Gardens: Year-round Color with Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs and Old Fashioned Roses taught by Betty Newton beginning Tues. Sept. 8, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Room 51, Grossmont High School, 1100 Murray Drive, La Mesa. Two Saturday field trips included. Fee $23, call 579-4790 or 444-4039.

Home Landscaping: Trees, Shrubs and Flowers (Emphasis on Fall Planting) taught by Betty Newton beginning Wed. Sept. 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m., also Thurs. Sept. 10, 9:00-12 noon, Room 12, Foothills Adult Education Center, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. Fee $23, call 579-4795 or 444-4039.

Vegetable Gardening taught by Joyce Gemmell beginning Wed. Sept. 9 - Oct. 28, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Room 53, Foothills Adult Education Center, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. Fee $13, call 579-4795.

Fruit Tree, Vine and Berry Gardening taught by Joyce Gemmell beginning Nov. 4. For time, location, fee and telephone number see preceding class.

Home Landscaping taught by Larry Smith. Begin either Tues. Sept. 8, Wed. Sept. 9 or Thurs. Sept. 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 201, Santana Adult Center, 9915 N. Magnolia, Santee. Fee $30, call 579-4785.

Chula Vista Adult School is offering *Landscaping with Drought Resistant and Native Plants* taught by Cynthia Carlson beginning Tues. Sept. 8-Oct. 13, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Eastlake High School, 1120 Eastlake Parkway, Chula Vista. Materials fee $10, call 691-5760. This class will also be taught Wed. Sept. 9-Oct. 14 at the Del Rey Center, 1034 4th Ave., Chula Vista. For time, fee and telephone number see preceding class.

Sweetwater Adult School is also offering *Landscaping with Drought Resistant and Native Plants* taught by Cynthia Carlson beginning Nov. 3-Dec. 8, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Sweetwater Adult School, 2800 Highland Ave., National City. Materials fee $10, call 691-5725.

Occasional classes in healthy gardening techniques are conducted by the nonprofit, educational **Price-Pottenger Nutrition Foundation** and their San Diego **ECOASIS CLUB**. They encourage the practice of natural pest control and nonchemical methods of gardening. These classes cover such topics as planting in raised beds, homemade composts, soil analysis and recipes, and the garbage bag method of gardening. Their classes feature the hands-on approach as well as lectures. For more information and a Fall schedule call 582-4168.

Quail Botanical Gardens (436-3036) offers a docent training class which starts each Fall and includes ten weeks of instruction. The **Master Gardener Program** (694-2859) under the auspices of UC Cooperative Extension involves approximately 17 weeks of class. Both of these educational opportunities require volunteer commitment upon completion of the class series.

County nurseries often offer classes to their customers. One that we know has continued for many years is the one at **Walter Andersen's Nursery**, 3642 Enterprise, San Diego. They offer a free class each Saturday morning at 9:00. Call 224-8271 for the schedule.

If you attend one of the classes listed above, please mention to the instructor that, "I saw it in *California Garden* magazine."

* * *

PAT KASTAMA is assistant editor of *California Garden*.

GARDEN GRAND OPENING

"QUINTA HELENA", a two acre private garden devoted to showcasing drought resistant and native plants will open to the public beginning Sun., Oct. 30 from 12-5 p.m.

Cynthia Carlson, Chula Vista and Sweetwater Adult Education teacher and enthusiastic gardener, has used her garden for class field trips and garden club visits for several years. She has planted drought resistant and easy care trees, shrubs, flowers, succulents, vines and ground covers interspersed with native plants in large islands divided by walkways.

Dulzura is drier, hotter and colder than most of San Diego County. "If I can grow a plant here you can grow it anywhere" says Cynthia. She goes on to explain the garden's name. *Quinta* is Spanish for country garden or home. *Helena* is for her mother who encouraged her to purchase the then bare piece of ground, ten years ago.

Open Wed.-Sun. by donation, 1421 Barrett Lake Road, Dulzura CA. After Oct. 1 call 468-3271 for a recorded message giving directions and hours. All proceeds to benefit the nonprofit Barrett Valley School for Handicapped Children, founded by Cynthia's mother, Helena.

FREE SUPPLIER DIRECTORY 'GOOD BUGS'

California Environmental Protection Agency

ANYONE LOOKING FOR "good bugs" for their garden or farm is invited to send for a free new booklet available from the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

"You can find out where to buy everything from ladybugs and lacewings to mosquito fish and parasitic nematodes," said DPR Director James W. Wells. "There are controls for many insects, including aphids, mites and beetles, as well as controls for weeds like Scotch broom, and puncture vine."

A green lacewing, *Chrysoperia carnea*, with aphids.

The 31-page booklet, which goes by the unwieldy title of *Suppliers of Beneficial Organisms in North America*, includes 95 suppliers of more than 126 different organisms used for biological control of pests on small and large farms, and in backyard gardens.

This version updates the 1989 edition. Wells stated, "We try to revise it every couple of years. Each year the number of suppliers and the number of beneficial organisms increases. Biological control is a very exciting field — there's a lot of interest in alternatives to pesticides, and a lot of work is going on in this area."

The booklet includes name, address and phone number of sources of beneficial organisms throughout the United States and Canada, their product line, whether they sell wholesale or retail, and whether a catalog or brochure is available. Whether they supply free information and consulting is also noted.

The booklet does not include information on use of beneficial organisms. That information is sometimes available from the supplier, and UC Cooperative Extension is very helpful, in San Diego call 694-2845.

Wells added that using a beneficial organism to fight pests usually takes more knowledge than using a pesticide. "With a chemical pesticide, you can read the label to know how much to use, when to apply it, how to get best results. And you can usually see the results fairly quickly. With natural enemies, the results are more gradual, but they are often more long-lasting, since you are establishing a system of natural checks and balances. To succeed, it is important to know the pest you are dealing with, and the best way to approach it.

"Farmers often call in integrated pest management (IPM) specialists, who know how to diagnose problems and recommend solutions. Home gardeners can take advantage of the tremendous expertise at the UC Cooperative Extension, or ask the suppliers for advice," said Wells.

The booklet is indexed to help match suppliers with specific natural enemies they sell. There is also an index of beneficial organisms, with scientific name and target pest. Not listed are biological controls that are single-celled organisms (microbial pesticides, such as *Bacillus thuringiensis*), which are considered pesticides under state and federal law and are widely available.

Although several natural enemies for various whiteflies are listed, there is no commercially available "good bug" to fight ash whitefly. A state sponsored biological control program aimed at ash whitefly will continue this year, with releases of a parasitic wasp that is proving very effective in locations where it has been released in the past.

Free, single copies of the booklet are available from the Department of Pesticide Regulation, Environmental Monitoring and Pest Management Branch, Attn: Beneficial Organisms Booklet, 1220 N Street, P.O. Box 942871, Sacramento 94271-0001. Order by phone: (916)654-1141.

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Now Is The Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES
This issue marks 20 years of this column compiled by Penny Bunker.
Subscribers rank it a favorite feature of California Garden.

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Helen LaGamma

HAVE good ventilation about the plants — leave air space between the plants.
SPRAY the leaves with warm water; cool water will chill the plant.
KEEP pans of wet pebbles among plants for added humidity; very important during hot weather.
KEEP violets well groomed — have clean growing area.
KEEP plants out of direct sunlight; use cool light tubes.

BEGONIAS
Margaret Lee

TAKE cuttings to increase your plants.
FEED tuberous begonias in September as long as leaves remain green.
GIVE final feeding of the year in October to your regular begonias unless you have fed all year round with a balanced fertilizer.
START to withhold water from the tuberous in October. Do not feed them again.

BONSAI
Dr. Herbert Markowitz

WATER to keep plants moist — but not wet. **Do not** allow to dry out. On hot days, spray after the temperature has cooled in the evening.
PLACE plants under lath or shade to protect them from burning.
TRANSPLANT some trees with care — better to transfer to a pot one size larger and add new material, if needed.
FEED young trees carefully using about ⅓ strength, to encourage new growth.
FEED ¼ strength fertilizer to those trees showing signs of being in their growth cycle (showing new growth or buds).
TRIM and shape your deciduous trees.
WAIT until spring for any major transplanting.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

MAINTAIN a regular watering program until the weather turns cooler.
KEEP moist especially during any dry Santa Ana winds. Do not water at all if the rains begin.
CONTINUE feeding throughout the warm weather months.
POT up "pups" now while weather is still warm.
CUT pups that are at least ⅓ the size of the mother plant; leave others on until next spring.
GROOM plants by cutting dead blooms and discolored leaves.
REPOT to the next size larger if necessary.
CHECK for scale, snails and slugs; do not put bait in cups.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph A. Betzler

WATCH the weather situation as changes can occur very fast in our areas. Protect from any hot days that might occur in October — be aware of early frost (in some areas) and protect.
MAINTAIN a high moisture level, especially if dry hot winds occur, otherwise start hardening plants.
WATCH plants and fertilize less as they go dormant. The winter growers need more fertilizer and water as they start to grow.
FEED with a low nitrogen fertilizer.
DIVIDE overgrown plants and propagate new growth.
TRANSPLANT actively growing seedlings and rooted cuttings now so they can become established before winter.
CLEAN areas that plants are grown in.
CHECK carefully for pests and disease. Look for mites, mealybugs, aphids, snails and slugs; treat appropriately.

CAMELLIAS
E. C. Snooks

CONTINUE regular watering, especially during Santa Ana days — spraying of the foliage will also be beneficial.
DISBUD, leaving one bloom bud per branch for larger bloom. Leave some further down the stem for later bloom.

FERTILIZE with low nitrogen fertilizer like 2-10-10.
ADD IRON and zinc if indicated by pale foliage with dark green veins.
PRUNE out unwanted new growth.
SPRAY for bud mites or spider mites with Kelthane™ or similar miticide.
APPLY gibberellic acid for earlier blooms.

DAHLIAS
Abe Janzen

FEED with potash to promote root growth — it also helps them to keep better during the winter.
CLEAN up old leaves and stalks, preparing for fall and winter storage.
MAINTAIN a regular watering program until the first of October, then cut down gradually.
SPRAY to prevent mildew and spider mites.

EPIPHYLLUM
San Diego Epiphyllum Society

PROTECT plants from exposure to direct sunlight.
SPRAY mist to provide moisture during warm spells and keep stems clean and free of dust, spraying of foliage occasionally can be beneficial.
PREVENT soil from completely drying out.
PROTECT new growth from wind damage; stake plants and carefully tie up to a trellis.
CHECK for snails and slugs; a few granules of Slugetta™ at the base of the plants is very effective and leaves little or no residue.
GIVE plants a final feeding for fall — use a balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.
PRACTICE preventative maintenance regarding insect control. Use insecticides such as Malathion™ or Orthene™, only if absolutely necessary. Read and follow label instructions.

FERNS
Ray Sodomka

PROTECT from hot sun, but give maximum light.
WATER and maintain humidity by keeping surrounding areas damp.
FERTILIZE once with a high nitrogen fertilizer.
PLANT spores.
TRIM off dead fronds, keep plants well groomed.
CHECK for aphids, mealybugs and scale; may use Malathion-50™.
CONTROL snails, pillbugs and slugs with metaldehyde granules.
REPOT house ferns to next size pot if overcrowded.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES
Vincent Lazaneo

CONTINUE periodic, thorough irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture until winter rains begin.
OPERATE drip irrigation systems until we receive at least two inches of rain to prevent salt injury.
PRUNE out dead and severely damaged shoots of deciduous trees before foliage drops.
COVER maturing grape clusters with paper bags (poke small holes in the bags for ventilation) to protect maturing fruit trees from yellow jackets and birds.
CHECK on maturity of kiwi fruit. Maturity is measured by a change in seed color from white to brown to black. Pick large fruit first, but harvest before fruit softens.

FUCHSIAS
William Selby

MAINTAIN humidity by keeping area sprayed. Mist plants during Santa Ana days; but **do not** over water.
PICK off faded blossoms and seed pods.
PROTECT plants from any hot dry winds.
CONTINUE fertilizing for winter bloom.
TAKE cuttings from good healthy growth using only the tender tips. October is better month to propagate new plants.
KEEP cuttings in a cool place for 4-5 days; keep moist but not wet or soggy.
SPRAY for insect control — being sure to wet the underside of leaves, the hiding place for egg laying.

GERANIUMS (PELARGONIUMS)
Carol Roller

WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.
CONTINUE feeding a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water, using less than full strength. Apply as often as needed to avoid nutritional deficiencies. Long term pellets may be used instead.
CONTINUE pest control and disease prevention using products according to the manufacturers' directions.
BEGIN pruning. On regals, scenteds and similar types at least one green leaf should be left on each stem being cut back.

MAKE cuttings from prunings. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.
KEEP all plants tidy by removing faded flowers and discolored leaves.
CONTINUE to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well-shaped.

IRIS
Iris Society

PLANT beardless iris, Spurias, Siberians, Louisianas and Japanese varieties. Keep moist until well established. Louisianas and Japanese are grown in post or pools, or under swampy conditions.
STILL divide and plant clumps of bearded iris.
CLEAN up the beds and discard old fans and debris.
FEED established tall-bearded that are not being divided.
CONTROL snails and slugs.
PLANT Dutch bulbs in October for spring bloom.

NATIVE PLANTS
Jeanine De Hart

FINISH selecting natives for fall planting.
DIG planting holes twice as deep and twice as wide just as you would for any other plant. Mix a loose potting mix 50-50 with native soil. If native soil is clay, read next point carefully.
MAKE SURE drainage is good. If necessary, dig deep and add decomposed granite mixed in with soil. Lean and well drained is perfect for many of our Southern California natives.
WATER plants well after planting and again in about three days. This is to make sure there are no air pockets near the roots that will dry out rapidly.
WHEN watering, always water deeply to get the roots to grow downward. The roots grow in winter, the tops in spring/summer. Drought tolerance is dependent on deep rooting.

ORCHIDS
Charles Fouquette

STAY alert for Santa Ana winds with high heat and low humidity. Frequent misting will help plants through this period.
CATCH and save any rain water.
START *Nobile Dendrobiums* on a 0-10-10 diluted fertilizer program. Be sure to leach the traces of other fertilizers from the pot. When leaves drop from *Nobile Dendrobiums*, stop fertilizing and watering — just keep damp over the winter and protect them from total freeze. (When new leaves sprout in spring after they flower **then** you may start nitrogen fertilizer.)

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WATCH *Paphiopedelums* during the hot dry days. They should be misted more at this time. They have no bulb to store water.
WATCH for snails and slugs; see local nursery for latest pest control. Watch for red spiders (they grow and multiply this time of year). Be sure to spray under leaves, that's where they concentrate. Use non-petroleum based type of insecticides — see your local nursery.
MIST seedlings and other plants in morning to prevent shock of cold water on warm leaf surfaces.
GIVE *Phalaenopsis* and *Vandacious* orchids a great amount of light **if** there is air movement to take the heat from the leaves.

ROSES
Brian Donn

CONTINUE with a regular watering, feeding and spraying program.
ENJOY your October roses.
FEED liquid iron the first week in September.
WASH off any spider mites with a jet spray of water under leaves weekly. Might spray with Orthene™ and a fungicide mixed as per instructions. Be sure to water the day before spraying.

CLEAN up any debris, especially spent foliage, from around the rose bushes.
ATTEND fall rose shows and jot down names of those you wish to have for next year.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo

REMOVE warm season vegetables badly damaged by pests or diseases and those which are past their prime production period.
PREPARE soil for planting cool-season vegetables by incorporating composted organic matter and pre-plant fertilizer high in phosphorous.
BEGIN planting cool-season vegetables: broccoli, brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, peas, potatoes (white), spinach and turnips.
BUY seed of short-day onions like Grano, Granex, and Crystal Wax, as well as garlic cloves to plant in November for bulb production next summer. Onion sets can be planted for a quick crop of green onions, but not for bulbs.
DIG sweet potatoes before any danger of frost. Be careful not to bruise the roots. Dry thoroughly (1-2 weeks) then wrap in newspaper and store close to 60°F.

.oOo.

GREEN THUMB

DIVIDE the daylilies, agapanthus, Shasta daisies and belladonna lilies after blooming.
FEED well established shrubs with a balanced fertilizer; water thoroughly.
DUST and stake chrysanthemums, but do not pinch tips any more; disbud for larger bloom.
PREPARE bulb beds; add humus. Do not plant bulbs requiring cool period at this time, get early bulbs in nursery and place in refrigerator for a few weeks before planting.
MULCH acid loving plants, using peat moss or ground bark.
PLANT spring flowers such as calendulas, cinerarias, snap-dragons and pansies.
PLANT watsonias, scillas, jonquils and most South African bulbs in October. Put in some daffodils later in the month.
PRUNE wisteria back to prepare vines for spring bloom.

PEAS TO EAT

Betty Newton

FALL IS HERE, it is time to plant. Not just sweet peas. Back in 1986, writing for the *San Diego Union*, I praised edible pod or snap peas and one variety of flat snow pea. I stated that snow peas with their edible pods are great in stir fry dishes and that snap peas have been "improved, have fleshy thick pods and are sweet and crispy even when the peas are fully developed. They can be broken like fresh string beans...and sell for up to $3.00 a pound" — words meant to move a gardener to action.

With input from Joyce Gemmell (East County vegetable and fruit tree gardening teacher) I wrote that field trials of edible pod varieties' production (done in East County) showed snow pea 'Mammoth Melting Sugar', the established commercial variety, the clear winner.

Three years later I got a wonderful letter from Mr. C.W. Pike of La Mesa saying, "I've been vegetable gardening in the La Mesa area for several years, but never tried 'snow' peas. Your article turned me on! I've raised the Mammoth Melting Sugar peas (mentioned in the article) for the last three years, and we find them delicious.

"Our planting area, consisting of one planter box and one eight foot row along a fence, consistently produces five to seven dozen peas a day, December through April. Our friends, relatives and neighbors appreciate them. Although they are delicious in stir fry, most of ours are eaten as they come off the vine. Delicioso!"

Now is your time to get inspired. Seeds on the seed racks here are ordinarily changed in the last days of August. You may have to visit several nurseries and department store gardening centers to find the seeds you want.

October planting in moist, fast draining soil in sun, with only a low-nitrogen pre-plant fertilizer dug down a foot, should reward you with sweet-tasting peas. December and January planting results in fewer bearing months before plants mildew. If frost comes, it will usually only nip the current pods. The next set will be good.

'Mammoth Melting Sugar' is sometimes just called 'Melting Sugar'. It is not a bush type and needs twine trellising.

In those Cooperative Extension tests, the fatter, pick-when-mature snap peas 'Dwarf White Sugar', 'Sugar Rae', 'Honey Pod' and 'Dwarf Gray Sugar' were excellent. 'Sugar Ann' was not tested, perhaps because it is so widely grown and munched from the short bushes.

In Southern California, winter can produce harvests.

* * *

BETTY NEWTON is a garden writer and teaches at Foothills Adult School.

¿SE HABLA LATIN?

Mort Brigadier

DO YOU HAVE difficulty remembering the Latin names of plants? If you do, you can blame Carolus Linnaeus, the taxonomist who discovered, identified and named so many plants in the early 18th century. All plants have at least three names signifying the general plant family, the genus, and the species. Hybridized plants have an additional name, the name of the cultivar. Each word adds more to the information known about that specific plant. The Latin name can include things like the color of the plant, where it comes from, its habitat and more.

Whenever a new plant is discovered and classified, the person(s) may name the plant and add their own name to it. We often see the letter "L" following a plant name. The "L" does not refer to "Latin", as many believe, but to Carolus Linnaeus, also known as the big L, the taxonomist who named so many plants.

If two people discover the same plant in different parts of the world at different times, or at the same time, but unknown to each other, each may name the plant and add their own name. Thus the same plant may be known by two different names. For example, creeping bentgrass is known as *Agrostis palustris, Huds.*, for its discoverer James Hudson (1730-1793), and as *Agrostis stolonifera L.* for discoverer Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778).

Being one of the first on the scene, Linnaeus named countless plants including most of the trees commonly found in California today. These include: ash, birch, pine, guava, oak, pepper, poplar, walnut, elder, fig, maple, hazelnut, hawthorne, willow and wax myrtle trees. He even named the onion and asparagus. He named them, of course, in Latin. Plant lovers are not being snooty when they use the Latin names for plants. Rather, they are being very practical, as they are able to communicate with each other throughout the world. The Latin names are the universal names for plants allowing horticulturists, botanists and gardeners in different places to know exactly which plant they are talking about and not be confused by different languages or colloquial common names which often have no meaning outside a localized region.

Family names and genus names are generally descriptive of specific characteristics of the plants or details, like where it was first found. Some names contain easy to remember clues: *Japonica* (Japan), *borealis* (north), *australis* (south), *alta* (tall), *flora* (flower), *reptrans* (creeping), *campestris* (field), *insularis* (island), and so on. But before rushing out to brush up on your basic Latin, remember that some plants are not named in Latin; like the Latin language itself, much was borrowed from Arabic or Greek.

Sometimes plant names are changed. Whenever subsequent research finds that a plant is of a different genera or species than originally believed, the researcher can rename the plant and add his own name.

The right to name a new plant is what motivates many propagators to try and produce a strain within a species with little or no genetic change either sought after or desired. These botanical varieties are normally listed as "cv" for cultivar following the Latin, Arabic or Greek. Propagators may add their own name to these offspring plants, but usually chose a name to either promote sales such as the 'Big Boy' or 'Early Girl' tomatoes, or to honor individuals such as the 'Barbara Bush' or 'President Lincoln' roses.

Although life expectancy was much shorter in the early 18th century than it is today, Carolus Linnaeus and those early researchers lived to a ripe old age even by today's standards...proving once again that working with plants can be beneficial to your health...even if you cannot always remember the Latin names.

* * *

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Stern, William T., *Botanical Latin*
Neal, Bill, *Gardener's Latin: A Lexicon* (Book review, page 152).
MORT BRIGADIER gardens in Spring Valley and is a Master Gardener.

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TAKE A HORSE OF A GREEN COLOR

Betty N. Shor

WHY DOES THE word "horse" show up so often as a modifier in common names of plants or animals?

The *Oxford English Dictionary* sheds some light on this. After noting that the word came into English from the Teutonic language — for the animal, of course — it gives one usage as: "In names of plants, fruits, etc. (often denoting a large, strong, or coarse kind)." It was probably intended as a compliment to the horse, not necessarily to the plant. From that usage, we have:

Horse bean, also called fava or broad bean, in the Legume family, and certainly among the largest of the beans.

Horsemint Ellen Gillis

Horsechestnut, which the *Oxford Dictionary* defines as a large ornamental tree (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), probably a native of Asia, introduced into England about 1550; its fruit resembles the edible chestnut. The genus includes other species of *Aesculus*, some of them American ones, which are usually known as buckeye.

Horsemint, also called bee balm or bergamot (genus *Monarda*) — a large member of the mint family, native to North America. (My mother taught me that it was a mint, but she scorned it because it was bigger and less tasty than other mints.)

Horse nettle is a coarse prickly weed (*Solanum carolinense*) of the nightshade family, with bright yellow fruit resembling berries.

Horseradish, in the family *Cruciferae*; *Sunset Western Garden Book* calls this "a large, coarse, weedy-looking perennial plant" — and certainly it looks like a very large radish.

Horseradish tree (*Moringa pterygosperma*), from India, can be grown in tropical parts of the United States and has a root that is said to substitute for horseradish — so that is a secondary derivative.

The brushy end of the horse leads to descriptive plant names such as the **Horsetail** (*Equisetum hymale*), a living fossil from the days of the dinosaurs. The resemblance to the tail of a horse is more obvious in the branching kinds. There is also the **Horsetail tree** (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), its pendulous gray-green branches also might be said to look like the tail of a horse.

Horseradish Ellen Gillis

The animal kingdom also has its horsey common names. Several seem to agree with that definition of "large": horse mackerel, horse clam, and horse conch — each of which is the largest in its group. No one would question very much the horsey look of the head of the seahorse. As for the horseshoe crab, that is obvious from its shape.

The Latin word for horse was *equus*, the Greek was *hippos* (as in hippopotamus - river horse). When you find these words in taxonomic names or common usage, they refer to that useful "large, strong, or coarse animal: the horse."

Other horse-type derivatives from Latin and Greek are: *asinus* for ass, *burdo* for mule, *burricus* for small horse, *caballus* for horse, *hinnus* for mule, *killos* for ass, *hemikillos* for mule, *mulus* for mule, *onos* for ass, *hemionos* for mule, *Pegasus* for the winged horse of the Greek muses, and *polos* for colt or pony. *Zebra* comes from an African tribal word for the striped wild relative. If you enjoy tracing obscure origins like these in the taxonomic names of plants and animals, I recommend *Composition of Scientific Words*, by Roland Wilbur Brown (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1956, reprinted 1985).

* * *

BETTY N. SHOR is a local plant enthusiast of succulents, including the burrotail (*Sedum morganianum*), and of bamboos. She also cries over horseradish when grinding it for home use.

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Horticultural Calendar (cont'd)

Oct. 17-18	**PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.** 4th Standard Flower Show Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. "October Getaway" Entries invited. Show hours: Sat. 1-5 p.m., Sun. 10-4 p.m. Free. Call 756-3443 or 749-3485.
Oct. 20	♣**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**♣ Quarterly Meeting/Dinner Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. 5:45 p.m. social hour & dinner. 7:15 p.m. meeting & program. $4.50 members; $5.50 nonmembers. Information & reservations: 232-5762.
Oct. 20	♣**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**♣ Basket Class Casa del Prado Rm 104, Balboa Park. Martha Rosenberg, instructor. Materials furnished. 9:30-3 p.m. Class limited. Registration/information. 232-5762/298-5182.
Oct. 22-23	**CUYAMACA COLLEGE BOTANICAL SOCIETY & S. D. COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY** "Xeriscape '92 - San Diego Style" (drought tolerant landscaping) San Diego Convention Center, 111 W. Harbor Drive. Speakers, discussions, exhibits, tours. $65. Call 443-1756.
Oct. 24-25	**SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY** Fall "Mini" Show Casa del Prado, Marjorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. 12-5, Sun. 10-4:30 p.m. Free.
Oct. 24-25	**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Annual Plant Sale 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Rare species from Quail collection. Seminars & demonstrations. Sat. 10-1 p.m. members presale; public 1-4 p.m.; Sun. 10-3 p.m. public. Free admission & parking.
Oct. 27	♣**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**♣ Basket Class (See Oct. 20 for information).
Oct. 28	♣**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**♣ Bus Tour to Asian Gardens Transportation, tour, lunch. See page 158.
Oct. 31 & Nov. 1	**BALBOA PARK AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** Fall Show Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 10-4 p.m. Free.
Nov. 3	♣**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**♣ Topiary Class Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 9:30-3 p.m. Registration 232-5762/298-5182.
Through Oct. 12	**AMERIFLORA '92** International & Garden Exposition Columbus, Ohio. Write Mrs. Harold A. Bird, Jr., 3826 Chevington Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220.
Weekends	**SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM** Canyoneers Outdoor Program Starts 3rd week in Sep. Free guided nature walks. Apply for Canyon Leaders position or information/brochure: 232-3821 X 203.
Weekly	**SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN** Docent Tours Balboa Park by Organ Pavilion. Tues./Fri./Sat./Sun. 10-4 p.m. Donation. Call 232-2780.
Every Saturday	**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Free Guided Tours 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Meet at Visitor's Center. 10 a.m. For pre-scheduled tours (any age), call 436-3036 Tues.-Fri. 10-1 p.m. Garden admission free. $1 parking.
Every Saturday	**OFFSHOOT TOURS** One-hour Plant Walks in Balboa Park Meet in front of Botanical Lath House. Canceled for rain or less than 4 attendees. 1st Sat. History Walk; 2nd Sat. Palm Walk; 3rd Sat. Tree Walk; 4th Sat. Desert Walk; 5th Sat. Sample of all four tours. 10 a.m. Free. No reservations.

Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for Nov./Dec. issue is Sep. 15.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is not responsible for changes in information which has been submitted by the organizations.

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GARDENERS ONE AND ALL

Lucy Warren

FOR THE PAST year subscribers to *California Garden* were each sent a questionnaire in their renewal notices so we might learn more about our readers and what they would like in the magazine. We received five hundred completed surveys and thank everyone who took the time to help us shape the magazine for the future. We appreciate your interest and ideas. We incorporated suggestions from the first responses received last fall.

How are you different from other gardeners? UC Cooperative Extension conducted a random telephone survey of households in the San Diego area in 1985. Sampling 337 households throughout San Diego County, they found that the majority, 66.8%, included someone participating in some gardening activity. But they also found that only one in two gardeners (53%) in San Diego read gardening publications.

Responses to our study came equally from members and subscribers. At renewal this year many local subscribers became members of the San Diego Floral Association. This support helps to continue a San Diego tradition of gardening education. For a nominal increase in cost, members receive not only the magazine, but discounts on a variety of Floral activities and the newsletter. Membership is available at several levels.

Half of our readers belong to no other gardening organizations. However, those who do belong represent over 170 different clubs, plant societies and groups.

One-third of our subscribers read no other gardening publications regularly. But nearly 30% of *California Garden* readers do read *Sunset*. Other popular publications include *Organic Gardening, San Diego Home Garden, Pacific Horticulture,* and *Horticulture.*

You are exactly the gardeners for whom *California Garden* was created over 80 years ago. We love to reach new gardeners, but it often takes them time to find us. Over half of our readers have been gardening for over twenty years! One-third of our subscribers, 35%, first heard about the magazine by seeing it at a flower show or at the Del Mar Fair. One-quarter, 28%, were referred by a caring friend or relative. With no advertising budget, we rely on our volunteers and readers to let others know about *California Garden*.

What do you want? In a word, **more**. At least one-third of subscribers ask for more information on the subjects of flowers, seasonal gardening information, pests, local gardeners, gardening professionals or nurseries, and features on local gardens. Of 18 generic topic areas, each has its advocates who want more. So do we, and we are delighted to extend our outreach to more local gardeners and writers. It is through your input that we can cover local topics.

The magazine was begun to help gardeners who moved to Southern California to cope with our climate — a climate with different requirements, offering immense potential for both agriculture and beauty. We continue the tradition. Old issues are in our library and make delightful reading. We will always focus on Southern California's very special kind of gardening.

In our dreams, we would also like a larger magazine. We have so much we would love to share. Maybe that dream could happen with a larger circulation. Meanwhile, we continue to work at creating a balance of articles to satisfy the gardening needs and interests of our diverse readership with a full complement of timely articles.

We appreciate your support. We hope we have opened a dialogue and that you will continue to tell us what you would like to read and what you can offer. It is through the efforts of many volunteers that we are able to bring you accurate gardening information specific to Southern California. We hope you will share us with a friend!

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Neal, Bill
GARDENER'S LATIN: A Lexicon
Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, NC, 1992, 136 pages, b&w line drawings throughout, 6½" X 7¼", hardcover, $14.95

Gardeners who have gone through the frustration of looking for a special plant by its common name, only to find more than one of that name available in the nursery will certainly enjoy Bill Neal's gentle approach to botanical Latin. While some think of Latin as an unnecessary affectation, many long-time gardeners gradually grow to appreciate the beauty of an organized system for naming plants. As an example, "baby's breath" is a poetic name that describes the plant's airy cloud of tiny white blossoms. Knowing the Latin name *Gypsophilia paniculata*, it is even easier to remember how to care for it and what it looks like, "gypsum lover" with "loose spreading flower clusters." From A to Z the concise definitions take the mystery out of Latin names and many English words also make more sense. The lovely format with old botanical prints makes this little volume a delight to page through even if you are not looking up something specific. A beautiful gift for your favorite gardener, especially if that person is yourself.

BOOK REVIEW BY LUCY WARREN

* * *

SPECIAL SPECIES, An Anthology Written by and for The Children of San Diego County
San Diego, 1991 & 1992, 40 pages, b&w illust., 8¼" x 11", softcover, $3.95

This very special publication series is a project for and by the community, but particularly children. The essays and illustrations of endangered animals and plants is the work of school children throughout San Diego County. The 1992 volume includes coastal barrel cactus, Lakeside ceanothus and San Diego Mesa Mint as well as many animals. School classes "adopt" a plant or animal species to learn about, draw and write. For information on how to get involved or where to buy these special volumes write: Mrs. B, P.O. Box 2249, Alpine CA 91903.

* * *

Harte, John and others
TOXICS A TO Z; A Guide to Everyday Pollution Hazards
Berkeley, University of California Press, 1991, 576 pages, 38 illust., 10" X 7¼", hardcover, $75.00

Though not a likely purchase for the individual gardener, this book is likely to be welcomed by public libraries because it answers so many questions and because it is easy to use. Today our lives are greatly influenced by chemicals and by the ways in which they are used and exploited. This is a situation which is often worsened by the media, using methods which range from the helpful, the misleading, and the manipulative to the overly dramatic.

The explanatory preface is both clear and expository and it should be read with attention. There is a helpful note about the use of terms in the text and a warning about the scope of this work, not because it is not thorough but because there are still many toxics which have not yet been identified. Part One, on toxics, covers fundamentals, medical aspects, major sources of exposure and the environment. Part Two is an alphabetical guide to commonly encountered toxics. Each entry is detailed, listing trade names, health effects, technical information and further reading. There is a list of national hotlines, two useful lists of abbreviations and acronyms, a list of toxics by exposure (very useful) and many reading lists. This book addresses a subject which is relevant to everyone and it merits widespread study.

BOOK REVIEW BY ELSIE TOPHAM

* * *

Williamson, John
PERENNIAL GARDENS; A Practical Guide to Home Landscaping
Chester, CT, Globe Pequot Press, new ed. 1992, 328 pages, 75 illust., 7" X 10", softcover, $16.95

The author was very well qualified to write this book, and it is fortunate that this edition has now been issued. The eight color plates used in the original edition are here omitted, but otherwise the text is complete and its riches are fully available. John Williamson was born in England, a country dweller, and there he began a career as a landscape designer. He created a garden at Beaulieu Abbey for Lord Montague, and was then commissioned to do the medieval garden at The Cloisters in New York City. He is well-known as a garden writer and TV gardener, particularly in the Northeastern U. S. and also in California.

The second half of the book consists of an encyclopedia of plants, followed by a list of suppliers and a bibliography. These features are excellent, but it is the first 200 pages which are the strength of the book. There is a chapter on practical gardening which acts as a prelude to some 39 designs for all types of gardens, all fully

described and clearly diagrammed. Would you like to have a witch's garden, a fragrance garden, a desert garden, a garden of flowers for cutting or a secret wildflower garden? These and many other ideas are available to you in this book. Recommended for practical advice, for the engenderment of enthusiasm and for just plain enjoyable reading.

BOOK REVIEW BY ELSIE TOPHAM

* * *

Sweetinburgh, Roger
DESIGNING YOUR GARDEN
London, Ward Lock Limited, 1991, 104 pages, 8 color photos, 80 b&w drawings, 7½" x 9¾", softcover, $17.95

Here is a book for new property owners who, starting from scratch, need to create a garden from bare earth. The author is an experienced landscape designer and teacher and a good medalist at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Along with a variety of designs and ideas for both flat and sloping sites, the text gives practical information on making measurements and drawing plans. Chapter three discusses types of materials and their uses; these pages contain clear diagrams and illustrations for dealing with walls, fences and trellises, and both vertical and horizontal surfaces. A chapter on special garden features includes fountains, cascades, gazebos, pergolas and barbecues. American readers will need to translate obviously British terms, but the contexts in which they are used clarify this small problem.

Using this book would enable an experienced gardener to be his own do-it-yourself landscaper; and, for those who decide to employ a professional, the book would give the home owner enough basic knowledge to allow a good understanding of all the factors involved in this kind of project.

BOOK REVIEW BY ELSIE TOPHAM

* * *

Stevens, David; Huntington, Lucy; Key, Richard
THE COMPLETE BOOK OF GARDEN DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND PLANTING
London, Ward Lock, 1991, 256 pages, 36 color photos, b/w and color illust., 7½" x 9½", hardcover, $29.95

Three English garden professionals have assembled a wealth of information, each in their area of expertise. If you are starting a home garden from the ground up or are a landscape student, this book provides detailed planning methods, construction drawings and plant suggestions.

In Part One, author and TV personality David Stevens backs up his theme — sound planning is absolutely vital — with checklists, how-to drawings and plot plans. Written for British gardeners, Stevens offers approaches also interesting to those outside the U.K.

Richard Key, winner of Chelsea Flower Show medals, deals with hard landscape including detailed drawings to build walls and fences, paving and paths, and garden features such as waterfalls and fish ponds, seating and lighting, pergolas, greenhouses and more.

In Part Three, Lucy Huntington, horticulturist and garden designer, stresses the importance of selecting plants that enjoy the soil, aspect (exposure), and drainage your garden supplies. Her text overflows with suggestions for plants to fulfill every desire of the gardener. (The appendix lists particular plants for each of 21 categories.)

Well indexed, this book is complete — almost an encyclopedia — with 5 groups of stunning color photographs.

BOOK REVIEW BY PATT SIGG

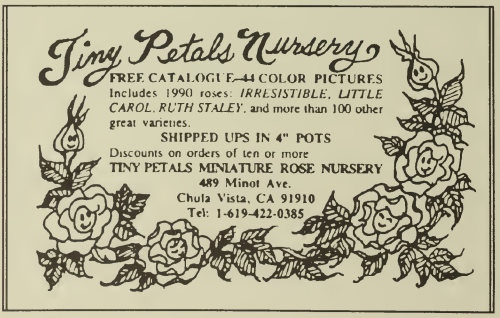
* * *

Hessayon, Dr. D.G.
THE NEW HOUSE PLANT EXPERT
New York, NY, Sterling Publishing Company, Inc., 1992, 256 pages, color photos and illustrations, 7¼" x 9½", softcover, $14.95

About 3,500 years ago, a pharaoh's soldier brought 300 plants to Egypt, as booty from Syria. Captain Bligh of the H.M.S. Bounty brought some plant firsts back to England. Dr. Hessayon is again giving us a book without a superfluous word or picture. Dynamic illustrations and diagrams give us about 80 pages in the "everything you know" category. The remainder of the book is an A to Z guide to house plants you know, many you don't and some which you had not thought to put in the house. The photos and illustrations are staggeringly colorful. Different sizes of print or tinted areas of print draw your attention to special problems of "Secrets of Success".

If hanging baskets intrigue you, there is a photo of six of the 16 candidates listed, planted in one container. Also, one of a massed display of five foliage plants, sunk in peat around their pots. A glass jar, sunk in the same waterproof container, displays cut flowers against this splendid background. There is a list of plants which will withstand door drafts or kitchen heat. Dr. Hessayon thinks of everything. The pictures draw you into the text. The text draws you into the pictures, and you are hooked on this inventive book.

BOOK REVIEW BY ELLEN GILLIS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Norman, Jill
THE COMPLETE BOOK OF SPICES - A Practical Guide to Sprices and Aromatic Seeds
Viking Studio Books, London, 1991, 160 pgs., 113 color photos, 8" x 12", hardcover, $21.95

The history of the spice trade past and present will give you a good insight of coming reading and visual pleasures. Each spice is presented in full color as fresh, dried, whole and ground. A chapter on indexing spices, common and lesser-known arranges them alphabetically by botanical name. Information on cultivation explains the distribution, appearance and growth, harvesting, aroma and taste, culinary uses and folk medicine.

Spice mixture information pinpoints combinations of ingredients unique to many cultures: Japan, China, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Africa and the Middle East, as well as American spice mixtures.

With this basic knowledge you are ready for the over-100 recipes using spices and spice mixtures from around the world. This informative book helps you to enrich your knowledge of spices and seasonings as they play a role in your every day cooking and eating pleasure.

BOOK REVIEW BY JEAN E. JOHNS

* * *

Hessayon, D. G.
THE BEDDING PLANT EXPERT
Herts, England, pbi publications, 1991, 128 pages, 251 color photos, many drawings, 7¼" x 9½", softcover, $9.95

This is another title in the *Expert* series by this author. The SDFA library has several others available for inspection. Here are the same high quality illustrations and diagrams and the same dramatic use of color. The book is full of well-organized information. The introductory chapters give a definition of bedding plants with a concise and very interesting history of their use. A list of bedding plant best sellers is divided according to U.S. and U.K. popularity. The book includes an alphabetical encyclopedia of bedding plants, discussion of plant purchase, care, plant troubles (horridly illustrated), and use of color. But the most interesting part of the book is the long chapter on using bedding plants. Various styles of bedding are explained. We learn the difference between blanket, carpet, raised and vertical bedding, and between formal and informal styles. If you have ever admired and envied a floral clock or a coat of arms in a public park or formal garden, you will particularly enjoy the interesting discussion of picture bedding.

Students of garden design, new home owners and dedicated amateur gardeners will find new ideas and useful advice in this handy paperback.

BOOK REVIEW BY ELSIE TOPHAM

* * *

Taylor, Jane
FRAGRANT GARDENS
London, Ward Lock, 1991, 79 pages, 32 color photos, b/w illust., 8½" x 8¼", softcover, $8.95

Jane Taylor considers that fragrance is a part of garden design, and she roundly declares that it is "not an accident but an essential quality." Given this premise, her book becomes a pleasure to read. Designers of public gardens do not always pay enough attention to the provision of fragrance for the visually handicapped visitor, and perhaps this volume will inspire a revised thinking on this subject.

This is a comprehensive book. It covers fragrant trees, shrubs, bulbs and herbs; all listed according to season. It includes gardens in greenhouses and conservatories as well as outdoors.

Along with the stunning color photography to be expected in this series of books, this title contains two useful appendices. The second is a list of plants for a variety of environments, and it includes not only scented plants but a section labelled "By way of warning: plants that don't smell good." But it is Appendix I which is of extra interest. This is an explanation of what the author calls "tenement gardening", and it expounds her method of growing more plants without taking in more space. This space-saving idea has advantages and disadvantages and it is likely to generate varied reactions; readers will find the whole book thought-provoking.

BOOK REVIEW BY ELSIE TOPHAM

* * *

Sweetinburgh, Roger
PATHS, PATIOS AND PAVING
New York, NY, Sterling Publishing Company, Inc., 1992, 96 pages, b/w illust., 4¾" x 7¼", softcover. $5.95

I like to lay brick. I have laid a lot of it in sand, and a little of it in mortar. This book seems either to say things which are obvious, or things which need better instruction than we have here.

BOOK REVIEW BY ELLEN GILLIS

* * *

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Carlsbad CA 92008-2157
619/**729-6110**
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310 Seeman Drive
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619/**421-8941** Day
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Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Rice
4040 Mars Way
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Affiliates Editor *California Garden*
Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park
San Diego CA 91010-1619
Call 222-4616.
Deadline for Nov-Dec issue:
Sep. 15, 1992

FLORAL BUS TRIP WITH AN ASIAN TWIST

Helen A. Gagliardi

HIGH ON A HILL in Hacienda Heights sits a humongous Buddhist Temple with its golden roof gleaming in the sun. China tourists will instantly recognize it as an elegant 'cousin' of the Forbidden City complex in Beijing. However, instead of being monitored by those stern Communist soldiers in rumpled uniforms, expect a warm welcome from a smiling monk in traditional grey robes. These guides will explain the symbolism of the opulent contents found in this very colorful world. The Chinese approach to a garden is contrary to our Western concept. The Asian eye takes delight in intricate stone formations; and beautiful containers may outshine the plants therein. This is truly an experience in a different culture.

Consequently we shall seek out a Japanese garden in the Whittier area. Another guide will hopefully explain why texture and form, along with precise architectural items dominate. There is an enormous rose garden at Rose Hill Memorial Park. The apologetic staff sadly announce that some of their 7000 rose bushes are victims of mildew and blight! You might sign up anyway; within the 3½ acres you'll find something worthy: like the annual AARS winners, weeping rose trees, history's oldest moss rose - and even unnamed roses of the future. Yes, lunch is included.

BUS TRIP-ASIAN TOUR-WED. OCT. 28
Rose Garden - Lunch Included

☐ $35.00 Members (who pay dues directly to SDFA)
☐ $38.00 Nonmembers & members of affiliates
Checks payable to: San Diego Floral Association
Mail to: Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101-1619

PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

Name:_____Phone:_____

Address:_____

_____ZIP:_____

Pick-ups
☐ Red Lobster Park & Ride, Grossmont Center, La Mesa 7:00 am
☐ Balboa Park behind Organ Pavilion, 7:15 am
☐ La Jolla Village Square, Nobel Drive 7:45 am
☐ Hadley's, Palomar Airport Road, 8:15 am

BUS TRIP - LAKE ARROWHEAD - Sept. 19

LAST CHANCE to join us for a Saturday excursion to the mountains north of San Bernardino! The tour includes a lake cruise and lunch in the village of Lake Arrowhead. SDFA offers a unique touring experience by special arrangement to five or six gracious, elegant and unusual homes once owned by wealthy Los Angelenos as vacation getaways. There they entertained movie stars and public figures in the days before air conditioning.

The drive is pleasant and in the last 25 miles every curve provides breath-taking views. We'll share a pleasant lunch, cruise the lake, and tour grand impressive homes and gardens. As the sunset gilds the sky we start back, planning to be home by 8 pm.

Pick-ups at La Mesa and Balboa Park. A stop in Escondido for our North County residents.

BUS TRIP-LAKE ARROWHEAD- SAT. SEPT.19
Lunch and Lake Cruise Included

☐ $40.00 Members (who pay dues directly to SDFA)
☐ $43.00 Nonmembers & members of affiliates
If you wish to visit private residences include:
☐ $17.00 for home tour with wine and cheese party
_____ Total
Checks payable to: San Diego Floral Association
Mail to: Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101-1619

PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

Name:_____Phone:_____

Address:_____ZIP:_____

Pick-ups
☐ Red Lobster Park & Ride, Grossmont Center, La Mesa 7:45 am
☐ Balboa Park behind Organ Pavilion, 8:15 am
☐ Park & Ride at Hwy. 78 and Broadway, Escondido, 8:45 am

Fall Floral Classes Begin

DON'T FORGET to check the Horticultural Calendar for the SDFA floral arranging, basketry and topiary classes starting in mid-September. They will be held on Tuesdays from 9:30-3:00 p.m. in the Casa del Prado. Instructors include Velma West and Adrienne Green for flowering arranging, Martha Rosenberg and Kathy Walsh for basketry and topiary. The classes are a lot of fun as well as instructional. Call 298-5182 for class schedule and fees.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Garden Center and Library
Casa del Prado Room 105 San Diego CA 92101-1619
619/232-5762
Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

GENERAL MEETINGS
1992/1993
October 20, February 16
April 20, June 15
5:45 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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2nd Vice President
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Term 1991-1994
Louise Lewis
Kathy Walsh
Mary Jordan
Term 1992-1995
Paul De Martini
Jean E. Johns
John Stellini

IN AND ABOUT THIS ISSUE

AUTUMN is a very busy time for Southern California gardeners. It is the swing season when gardeners are making the change from summer flowers and vegetables to winter ones. Unlike other areas of the country, most of us have little concern about frost and with good planning we can grow year-round. From now through autumn, bulbs will be available through nurseries and catalogs. This issue we introduce you to bulbs which will turn your Eastern relatives green with their variety, beauty and easy care; some of the botanical wealth of South Africa. We've collected information on some other South African plants to share with you, as well. That part of our world is both abundant and diverse in plant varieties, many just being discovered. We are well placed to enjoy its exotic bounty for we live in one of the few areas of the world which shares its Mediterranean-type climate. After the heat of summer, autumn begins the school year so we compiled the local opportunities to learn more about your garden. Happy digging and happy harvest!

GETTING TO KNOW SAN DIEGO FLORAL

Pat Kastama

HASN'T EVERYONE known a person that accomplished so much with so little fanfare that until he was absent no one realized how much we depended on him? Don Boyer is exactly that person in the San Diego Floral Association.

Nearly 20 years ago Allethe Macdonald, then president, met Don at a party and immediately recruited him as a Director for San Diego Floral. Don was then Director of Elementary Education for the San Diego Unified School District and a dedicated gardener, so he brought many kinds of expertise to our organization.

Don became very involved in Floral display for Christmas on the Prado. He chaired the show one year and another he was co-chairman. He often spent his birthday weekend physically putting up and taking down the show, missing only two in 20 years.

Over time, members of Floral elected Don to nearly every position (although he respectfully declined the positions of secretary and treasurer). In 1990-1991 he served as President, his term being interrupted by a heart attack and bypass surgery. But he is back seemingly stronger than ever and provided me much help as president in 1991-1992.

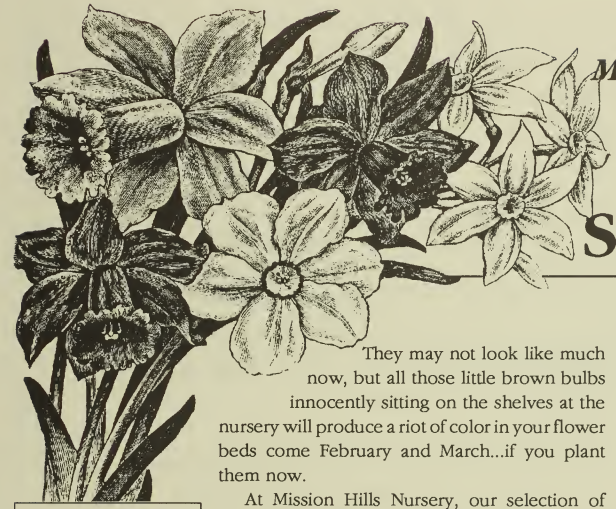
For several years Don has organized the sale of *California Garden* magazine at flower shows and the Del Mar Fair. He makes literally hundreds of phone calls lining up sales people and then spends several days manning the fair booth, especially filling in for people whose plans change at the last minute. He plans to retire from this demanding position as soon as we can find a person or persons to fill his shoes.

Don's gracious and modest soft-spoken manner are appreciated by everyone involved in Floral. Don staffs the Floral office one day a week and nearly always signs up a new member or two. It is to him that so many of us turn for information and advice, the organization would not be the same without him.

PAT KASTAMA is past-president of San Diego Floral Association.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN (USPS 084-240)
San Diego Floral Association, Inc.
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101-1619, USA

SECOND CLASS



Mission Hills Nursery.

Bulbs Add a Burst of Spring Color!

They may not look like much now, but all those little brown bulbs innocently sitting on the shelves at the nursery will produce a riot of color in your flower beds come February and March...if you plant them now.

At Mission Hills Nursery, our selection of spring blooming bulbs will be arriving beginning September 1. We will be carrying Bearded Iris, Ranunculus, Freesias, Paper Whites, and a new variety of Watsonia. Each is available in a seemingly endless range of colors.

Bulbs are one of the most versatile things you can plant. They can be planted in large, formal gardens, or with a more informal or natural look. And they even do well in containers!

We encourage you to stop by the nursery soon for the best selection on spring blooming bulbs. You will be happy you did come February and March when your garden is a riot of color.

Bulb Planting Tips

1. Always choose firm bulbs.
2. Don't be satisfied with what is available on your first trip to the nursery. We have new shipments coming in through the end of October, so there will probably be something new everytime you stop in.
3. Check to see which bulb varieties need chilling. Check with one of our knowledgeable salespeople for specific requirements for the bulbs you are planting.
4. Properly prepare the soil. For every 100 square foot area (10 x 10 feet) add four cubic feet of organic material such as **Kellogg's GroMulch.**
5. Add **Holland Bulb Booster** after the soil has been conditioned and just before you plant.
6. Plant bulbs at the depth recommended on the chart at the nursery.
7. Water thoroughly after planting.

MISSION HILLS NURSERY

San Diego
1525 Ft. Stockton St.
San Diego, CA 92103
295-2808

Encinitas
442 North Rancho
Santa Fe
Encinitas, CA 92024
753-7177

Hours: 8 a.m. to
6 p.m., 7 days.

Bearded Iris

Choose from a wide assortment of colors of this fall favorite. Regularly $1.99 each.

Buy 2, Get 1 Free!

Good through September 30, 1992. Not valid with any other offer. Price good only with coupon.

Holland Bulb Booster

A fertilizer formulated especially for bulbs. Used at planting time, it will help bulbs produce the very best show in town!
3 lb. bag. Reg. $3.99 **$2.97**

Good through September 30, 1992. Not valid with any other offer. Price good only with coupon.